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2 \*E-FILED: July 2, 2012\*  
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NOT FOR CITATION

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

SAN JOSE DIVISION

MARY BASICH,

No. C11-04406 EJD (HRL)

Plaintiff,

**ORDER RE DISCOVERY DISPUTE  
REPORT #6**

v.

[Re: Docket No. 92]

PATENAUDE & FELIX, APC and CAPITAL ONE BANK, (USA), N.A.; DOES 1-10, inclusive,

Defendants.

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Plaintiff Mary Basich sues for alleged violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq., the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1681, et seq., and the California Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, Cal. Civ. Code § 1788, et seq. She claims that defendants improperly attempted to collect a debt from her with respect to a Capital One credit card and invaded her privacy by obtaining her credit report without her permission. Plaintiff says that this is a case of mistaken identity and that she is not the debtor. Reportedly, the debt is owed by one Mary Ryals, who used the alias “Mary Basich.”

Defendant Patenaude & Felix (P&F) says that it began efforts to collect the debt in 2005. According to defendants, the information gathered during P&F’s investigation indicated that Ryals’ alias was “Mary Basich” and that identifying information for plaintiff and Ryals was commingled in various credit reports. P&F further asserts that plaintiff initially claimed that

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1 she had been the victim of identity theft for 11 years (i.e., beginning some 6 years before P&F's  
2 attempts to collect on the debt in question). Now, however, plaintiff says that she no longer  
3 believes Ryals stole her identity.

4 In order to defend against allegations of wrongful conduct, defendants subpoenaed  
5 records from Trans Union concerning Basich and Ryals. In essence, defendants seek (1) all  
6 documents (e.g., credit reports) relating or referring to Basich; (2) all documents received from  
7 or sent to Basich; and (3) all documents relating or referring to communications between Trans  
8 Union and Basich. The same categories of documents are sought with respect to Ryals. The  
9 time frame for the requests is from January 1998 to the present. In "Discovery Dispute Report  
10 #6," defendants seek an order compelling Trans Union to produce responsive documents.

11 Defendants say that they have not been able to locate Ryals to obtain a release  
12 permitting the disclosure of the requested documents.

13 Plaintiff refuses to sign a release. But, this court is told that she signed one in  
14 connection with her own subpoena to Trans Union. Additionally, defendants say that they  
15 served plaintiff with a copy of their Trans Union subpoena, and she did not assert any  
16 objections to the requested documents. Plaintiff has also been served with a copy of the instant  
17 discovery report. This court has received no objections from her as to the relief defendants  
18 seek.

19 As for Trans Union, it says that by law, and absent consent from the consumer, it cannot  
20 produce responsive records without a court order. 15 U.S.C. § 1681b(a). Nevertheless, the  
21 instant discovery report states that "Trans Union does not oppose or object to an Order granting  
22 Trans Union permission to produce documents in its possession, custody, and control  
23 responsive to Defendants' Non-Party Subpoenas for credit information regarding consumers  
24 Mary Ryals and Mary Basich." (Dkt. 92 at 2). Although Trans Union did not sign or join in the  
25 filing of the report,<sup>1</sup> defendants advise that Trans Union's counsel reviewed, edited, and  
26 approved the report.

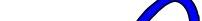
27  
28 <sup>1</sup> Trans Union's counsel declined to do so because she is not admitted to practice here.

1 Defense counsel and Trans Union’s counsel did not meet-and-confer in person as  
2 required by the undersigned’s Standing Order re Civil Discovery Disputes. And, this court does  
3 not find good cause to waive that requirement simply because Trans Union’s counsel is located  
4 in Indiana. Nevertheless, because the relief sought by defendants’ discovery report appears to  
5 be unopposed,<sup>2</sup> this court will proceed to rule on it as follows:

6 Trans Union shall produce responsive documents in its possession, custody, and control  
7 concerning consumers Mary Ryals and Mary Basich. The requested information is relevant or  
8 reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. FED. R. CIV. P. 26(b)(1).  
9 Further, under the circumstances presented, the court finds that defendants' stated need for the  
10 documentation outweighs privacy interests in the information. Even so, given the sensitive  
11 nature of the consumer information being sought, and having weighed legitimate competing  
12 interests and possible prejudice, the court finds it necessary to impose some general limits on  
13 the use and dissemination of that information.<sup>3</sup> The documents shall be used only in connection  
14 with this litigation and for no other purpose. The parties shall also take care to limit the  
15 disclosure of the consumer information to appropriate persons whose access to it is necessary  
16 for the prosecution, defense, or settlement of this action. Further, the parties shall not disclose  
17 confidential financial information or sensitive personal identification information (e.g.,  
18 birthdates, Social Security numbers, and other such information) in the public record. Trans  
19 Union's production shall be made within 14 days from the date of entry of this order.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: June 28, 2012

  
HOWARD R. LLOYD  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

2 Trans Union says that it does not waive its objections to the scope of the  
3 subpoena beyond the issue of obtaining the court's permission to disclose responsive records.  
4 The requests are very broadly worded. For purposes of resolving the instant discovery  
5 matter, however, no one has presented this court with any arguments as to why or how the  
6 requested production should be limited.

27                   <sup>3</sup> This court will concurrently enter, with some modification, the parties'  
28 stipulated protective order with respect to documents to be produced by Trans Union. The  
parties' stipulation indicates that they intend that protective order to be limited to Trans  
Union's "proprietary and trade secret objections and privileges."

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